

BOOK REVIEW

Camaenid land snails from southern and southeastern South Australia, excluding Kangaroo Island by Alan Solem. Records of the South Australian Museum Monograph Series Number 2: 425 pages. ISSN No. 1035-7939 and ISBN No. 0-7308-1885-3. Available from: South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia 5000. \$98 + \$7 postage and handling (domestic) or \$20 (overseas).

In 1976 Dr. Alan Solem of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, USA began an examination of the systematics of camaenid land snails in Western Australia. Over the years the work expanded and expanded, eventually encompassing camaenids from virtually all of the Australian continent. Dr. Solem intended to publish the results of the work primarily as a series of seven supplements to the *Records of the Western Australian Museum*. Five of these, totalling nearly a thousand printed pages have been published, as have a number of smaller papers on other land snails collected during his fieldwork. Some of these papers have appeared in the *Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia*. Tragically, Dr. Solem died unexpectedly in February 1990, and the status of several large manuscripts was thrown into doubt. With the passage of two years several smaller papers have been published posthumously. Part VI in the *Records of the Western Australian Museum* is in page proof. I believe there is a complete text of part VII and the remaining illustrations are being done in Chicago. It appears likely that these manuscripts will in fact be published.

Another major manuscript, *Camaenid land snails from southern and southeastern South Australia, excluding Kangaroo Island* was recently published by the South Australian Museum as a part of their new monograph series. The staffs of the South Australian Museum and Field Museum of Natural History are to be congratulated on seeing this massive monograph, all 425 pages of it, through to publication. Publishing such a massive monograph is a difficult job at best, and without the author to check the various publication stages the job is even harder. All involved have done an excellent job in seeing that the work was published.

Anyone familiar with Dr. Solem's work will readily recognize this volume as another of his prodigious efforts. The volume revises 54 species and subspecies of camaenid land snails belonging to 10 genera; 4 genera and 21 species and subspecies are described as new. In addition, a new subfamily, the Sinumeloniinae, is created. An illustration of the massive amount of information included is the fact that it is based on examination of 13,537 specimens.

The book is divided into two distinct parts. Part I deals with systematics, distribution and variation. This section follows Dr. Solem's usual procedure of having a detailed synonymy of the species, comparative remarks with other species including shell, radula, and anatomy. Shells and anatomy, primarily of the reproductive system are backed by detailed illustrations and there are superb SEM photos of the radula. Illustrations are generally very good but were done over a period of time by more than one illustrator, and so vary somewhat in quality. Comprehensive tabular data are also given of shell dimensions. Museums where type material is deposited are given along with details of material examined. Full